

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02655 161202Z
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SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV'S FOREIGN POLICY YEARENDER

1. BULGARIAN PRESS DECEMBER 1 CARRIED REPRINT OF
ARTICLE BY TODOR ZHIVKOV FROM JOURNAL "PROBLEMS OF
PEACE AND SOCIALISM" ENTITLED "A YEAR OF PEACE, A
YEAR OF STRUGGLE" IN WHICH HE GIVES HIS ASSESSMENT
OF BULGARIA'S FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVE-
MENTS DURING 1976. ARTICLE REFLECTS FAMILIAR NARROW
ORTHODOXY OF ZHIVKOV'S AND GOB'S APPROACH TO ISSUES
SUCH AS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND AMONG COMMUNIST
PARTIES, INCLUDING A SHARP ATTACK ON "EUROCOMMUNISM."

2. ARTICLE BEGINS WITH TIP OF THE HAT TO "THE SPIRIT
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02655 161202Z

OF HELSINKI," WHICH, "DESPITE OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES

CREATED BY CERTAIN CIRCLES OF THE CAPITALIST WEST...
HAS AFFIRMED ITSELF MORE AND MORE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN
STATES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS." DETENTE, FOR BULGARIA,
IS NOT "A TACTICAL MANEUVER." BCP AGREES COMPLETELY WITH THE
CONCLUSIONS OF THE BERLIN (ECPC) CONFERENCE
WHICH SAW DETENTE AS A "DYNAMIC PROCESS" TOWARD PEACE AND
SECURITY, CORRESPONDING TO ASPIRATIONS OF "ALL PEOPLES." ZHIVKOV
ALSO REPEATED POINT THAT DETENTE MUST NOW BE
EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MILITARY DETENTE.

3. ZHIVKOV THEN DEVOTES PARAGRAPHS TO STANDARD
PRAISE OF SOVIET UNION AND "THE FASCINATING PERSONALITY"
OF BREZHNEV AND ELABORATES UPON THE WISDOM FOR
BULGARIA OF THE CLOSEST RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

4. BULGARIA HAS FLOURISHED ECONOMICALLY UNDER
32 YEARS OF COMMUNIST RULE, "THE LONGEST PERIOD OF
PEACE IN THE MODERN HISTORY" OF THE COUNTRY, PROVING
THE MERITS OF "WORLD SOCIALISM." WITHIN THE
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, BULGARIA HAS FOLLOWED "A LINE OF
TIGHT COHESION" BASED ON MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES.

5. TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIANISM,
ZHIVKOV NOTES THAT SOME PARTIES HAVE TRIED (AND FAILED) TO
CONVINCE BULGARIA THAT THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IS
ALREADY "REORIENTED" TOWARD "NARROW NATIONAL
INTERESTS" (SOMETHING OF A SLAP AT NEIGHBORING
ROMANIA AS WELL AS YUGOSLAVIA). HE THEN LAUNCHES
INTO A RATHER CONVOLUTED ATTACK ON "A NEW CONCEPTION
RECENTLY PUT INTO CIRCULATION BY BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA,
FILLED WITH ANTI-SOVIETISM AND NAMED EUROCOMMUNISM."
INTENTION IS TO CONSTRUCT A WALL BETWEEN COMMUNIST
PARTIES OF "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND PARTIES IN
"WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES." ROUGHLY,
"EUROCOMMUNISM" EQUALS "ANTI-SOVIETISM" IN ITS
OPPOSITION TO PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AND IS
PRODUCT OF "CLASS ENEMY," INTENDED AS "IDEOLOGICAL
SUBVERSION." EUROCOMMUNISM REJECTS LAWS OF
REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE IN DEFERENCE TO "LOCAL
PECULIARITIES" AND PUSHES COMMUNISTS TO "INTEGRATE
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PAGE 03 SOFIA 02655 161202Z

THEMSELVES INTO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CONTEMPORARY
CAPITALISM" (A CARDINAL HERESY.) ZHIVKOV ADDS,
HOWEVER, THAT HE IS NOT CONDEMNING RIGHT OF OTHER
PARTIES TO CHOOSE MEANS OF STRUGGLE CONFORMING TO
SITUATION IN WHICH THEY FIND THEMSELVES.

6. ZHIVKOV CONCLUDES BY AFFIRMING BULGARIA'S
DEDICATION TO PEACE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AND

DETENTE, WHICH HE SEES AS "FAVORABLE TO MOVEMENTS
IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE
CAPITALIST WORLD." BULGARIA FACES THE FUTURE WITH
"WELL-FOUNDED OPTIMISM" FOR NEW SUCCESSES IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, AND
SOCIALISM.

7. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ASKED TO
COMMENT ON ZHIVKOV TEXT AFFIRMED ITS CONSISTENCY WITH
TRADITIONALLY STRICT BCP APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNISM AND SAID IT MAY HAVE BEEN AIMED TO STRENGTHEN
HANDS OF ELEMENTS WITHIN WESTERN EUROPEAN CPS WORKING
FOR CLOSER ADHERENCE TO SOVIET LINE. EXCEPT FOR
SHARPNESS OF ATTACK ON EUROCOMMUNISM AND FACT THAT
ARTICLE PURPORTS TO EMANATE FROM ZHIVKOV HIMSELF,
ZHIVKOV'S 1976 FOREIGN POLICY YEARENDER IS VERY MUCH
STANDARD BULGARIAN FARE.
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